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SIRHAN 8/16/71

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--THE COUNTY GRAND JURY TODAY IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AN INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE TAMPERING WITH EXHIBITS IN THE CASE OF CONDEMNED ASSASSIN SIRHAN SIRHAN.

THE PROBE IS SET TO BEGIN AT 10 A.M. IN THE JURY CHAMBERS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOSEPH P. BUSCH ASKED FOR THE INVESTIGATION "TO DETERMINE...THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE VIOLATION OF THE COURT ORDER REGARDING THE SIRHAN EXHIBITS."

HE REFERRED TO AN ORDER ISSUED BY A JUDGE AT THE BEGINNING OF SIRHAN'S PROSECUTION PROHIBITING ANYONE FROM EXAMINING EXHIBITS IN THE CASE WITHOUT COURT PERMISSION.

BUSCH SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PROBE IS TO FOCUS UPON THE "INTEGRITY OF ORIGINAL EXHIBITS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN."

BUSCH FIRST BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION OF HIS OWN INTO THE SIRHAN CASE WHEN AN ATTORNEY CHARGED THAT A LOS ANGELES POLICE CRIMINALIST DID NOT FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURES IN THE BALLISTICS PHASE OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE SLAYING OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE GRAND JURY PROBE IS MERELY ONE FACET OF THE TOTAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE SIRHAN CASE.

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